

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. The claims submitted for reconsideration are claims 28, 30, 34-51, 55 and 56.

Independent claims 28, 51 and 55 have been amended to include the phrase "consisting essentially of" in the manner recommended by the Examiner at the sentence bridging pages 7 and 8 of the office action. By making the amendment to the claims in this manner, applicants' previous arguments over the cited references, Sugio, Lienert and Suzuki, are now consistent with the language of the claims. Applicants, therefore, incorporate their previous argument by reference, and reassert that the claimed invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by any one, or any combination of, the cited references.

Having demonstrated that the cited references neither disclose nor suggest applicants' claimed invention, this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request early and favorable notice in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

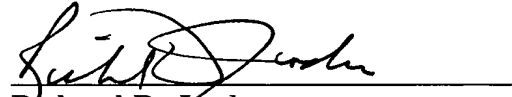
If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #03873844173).

January 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard D. Jordan", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard D. Jordan

Registration No. 33,519

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2544
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-5116